

State Interagency Team

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2022

2:00-3:30

SIT System of Care Recommendations:

1. Address workforce challenges and stress by investing in retention and recruitment efforts that bring in individuals who provide mental health supports, developmental disability services and peer supports.
2. Respond to the additional stress and trauma that has resulted from the past two years of the pandemic for children and families.
3. Invest in community-based supports and services leveraging federal funds and grants.

Present: Suzanne Legare Belcher, Kheya Ganguly, Alisha Hanrahan, Deb Forrett, Diane Bugbee, Barb Joyal, Laurel Omland, Dana Robson, Sophie Kaye, Rachel Wassel, Cheryle Wilcox, Danielle Bragg

Regrets: Amy Lincoln Moore, Sandi Yandow

| Agenda | Discussion Notes |
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| Reviewing updates from last month any major updates we all need to know about related to our System of Care (<i>staffing changes, new programming, policy changes, fiscal, workforce challenges and planning, legislative outcomes</i>) | Vermont Family network, Diane Bugbee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VFN held its Annual Conference in person for the first time since 2019. Pete Wright from Wrights law was the speaker for this full day fully masked conference and spoke on special education. More than 150 people attended, about a 50-50 split with parents and professionals.• The VFN helpline is receiving many calls from families saying their children are not being supported as they should be in school due to a lack of providers• Also receiving many calls from families who are being told to pick up children their due to behavior issues, most are shortly after arrival in school• Many calls related to evaluations being refused by schools when families ask for them, mostly verbal refusals not written, no explanation/information as to the why• Truancy issues, a Burlington area work group was assembled to look at this; Cara Gleason Krebs from Howard Center is the organizer of these meetings. Providers are very concerned about losing kids. |

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| | <p>Vicki Crocker from VFN is a member of this work group. Representation from multiple school districts, court members, and other community partners. This workgroup focuses on Chittenden County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFN grants to support families, respite, medically necessary items. If you hear of needs, please call VFN main number for more information about what's available 1.802.876.5315. • Be sure to check the VFN website https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/ to register for upcoming webinars: “Add to your Medicaid Toolkit: Understanding EPSDT* for youth under age 21” on May 4th with Linda McLemore, Staff Attorney with Medicaid Policy at DVHA. And, “Self-Advocacy in Transition Planning” on May 26th with Tara Howe, Transition Program Manager, HireAbility VT, Betsy Choquette, Programs Manager, HireAbility VT, Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie, Independent Living Coordinator, Vermont Center for Independent Living, and Martha Frank, Family Support Consultant-Education, Vermont Family Network <p>Family Services, Barb Joyal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget – additional funding for foster parents and respite, base rate increase, working on kin navigation project – support to formal and informal kin caregivers, working with Kin As Parents on this, supports to families who are caring for a child <p>Family Services, Beth Sausville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update around the training coming up and looking for parent rep – sent email to VFN and VFF for input, re-structuring within FSD teasing out Operations from Policy and Planning, more to come – lots of anxiety around this <p>Dept. of Mental Health, Laurel Omland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May is MH Awareness Month – working on newsletters to go out, May 5th National MH Children's Day – outreach from NAMI, some events happening as part of these • Working on training in collaboration around eating disorders, Caring for Adolescents and Young Adults with Disordered Eating: A Multidisciplinary Training 5/23 - already over 300 registrants |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on telehealth consults around psychiatry consults for pediatricians working with children with complex needs. • Hoping for increase for agencies in budget, enhanced FMAPS spending, then will be able to plan from there – with DAIL and ADAP. • Targeting unspent COVID relief funds to help with educational supports to schools – for educator support, and increase MH supports for schools – S.197 <p>Dana Robson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very busy, lots of kids with acute needs, started partnering with adult unit to manage kids in ED's • budget – addressing the struggle with kids with private insurance – language in the financial reg dept bill to create a study comm. this summer with lots of entities. <p>Cheryle Wilcox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising salaries in DA's, hoping for rate increase, this is impacting the DA's ability to hire, data to follow • RFP posted using MH block grant funds – provide more peer supports and to do system analysis of needs around peer supports – hoping to have a planning meeting\ • Building Bright Futures is overseeing an outside entity to do an early childhood systems analysis happening <p>AHS Field Directors, Suzanne Legare-Belcher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at # of kids in hotels – 504 children – this has gone up a bit, transitional housing program starting in July – will allow families to stay up to a year while they find something more permanent, will provide payment up front for this • Field Directors are involved in APS cases and those with complex needs • Trying to develop a consistent local adult LIT in every DO with a SIT type model at the State level as well • Newport DO is working on a truancy project with the local Community Justice Centers and Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) on a model for this. Working with resilience beyond incarceration on a model to support children with incarcerated parents, hoping to replicate this as well. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne is retiring in June. (Congrats and WE WILL MISS YOU!!!!) • Sarah Truckle is still the Director and Renee was hired as a Supervisor to provide more of the day to day, to oversee the VT Chronic Care Initiative folks as well as Field Directors and create connections there. <p>DVHA, Danielle Bragg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired a new CMO but recently turned down the position due to housing issues, another vacancy as well, working with Dartmouth, MA to try to expand the provider network, ABA benefit for VT Medicaid for autism diagnosis – working on presenting a payment model for providers <p>Children with Special Health Needs, Deb Forrett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDH/ CSHN SW participating in ongoing summits with CHIPs looking at nurse case managers, health care providers to improve better care coordination for kids with special health needs or complex needs – evaluating effectiveness and the overall system |
| <p>Discuss LIT Survey Questions from Act 264 Board-any edits? Additions?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ? themes in CSP's, feedback from CSP's about process - ? using trauma responsive and resilience-based practices - ? Is there a variety of folks facilitating CSP's, track percentages by what agency, person - For Act 264 board – what happens to the information shared and what tech assistance can they provide the LIT's and how is this tracked over time to look at themes |
| <p>Update on Lamoille LIT Visit that occurred April 25, 2022</p> | <p>These are notes from the Lamoille LIT visit that took place this week—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haven't had a DS clinical coord. In over two years so no one from DS is on LIT-have them for consultation • Always have families come to LIT for consultation and families attend. It's not a LIT unless a parent is there. • Did CSP training as a team a few years ago and that was helpful. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce challenges • Great LIT communication – tremendous strength of this team. • Therapeutic Foster care is a need • Talking to UCS about Puck and hoping to stand up something similar in Lamoille. • Challenging when a need is identified and then don't have the services needed • Strength-having Donna as their parent rep • Looking to track CSPs in a more efficient way |